

Yadkin County Board of Commissioners
Minutes from Special Meeting - Budget Work Session
June 3, 2010

Members present

Chad Wagoner - Chairman
Kevin Austin - Vice-Chairman
Tommy Garner - Commissioner
David Moxley - Commissioner
Brady Wooten - Commissioner

Staff Present

Jim Haynes - Interim County Manager
Aaron Church - Deputy Manager
Sheron Church - Finance Director
Gina Brown - County Clerk

Also Present

Frank Zachary - Commissioner Elect

The Yadkin County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Human Resources Building at 217 East Willow Street, Yadkinville, North Carolina in order to discuss the proposed budget for 2010-2011. The meeting notice was duly provided to all local media representatives and was posted on the doors of the regular meeting place 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Chairman Wagoner called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Yadkin County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Cain and Major Danny Widener appeared before the Board. Sheriff Cain remarked that he had met with the Board regarding the budget each year he had been sheriff and this year was no exception. Sheriff Cain stated that he understood the restricted nature of the budget and does not have additional requests at this time. Sheriff Cain offered that his office will do its very best with the funds allocated. Chairman Wagoner stated that he appreciated the job that the Sheriff and staff do with the funding received.

Major Widener added that the budget requests submitted by the Sheriff's Office were actually less than the prior year. The budget appeared to increase due to the transfer of a position from IT to the Sheriff's Office and the Board's approval to pay overtime for communications.

There was brief discussion of vehicles, freeze on positions, and the potential for increases in fuel prices. The Sheriff's Office is working through these issues just as every other department. In closing, Sheriff Cain remarked that all department heads of the County work very hard and do not get adequate credit.

Northwestern Regional Library

John Hedrick, Executive Director and Joan Sherif, Regional Supervisor of the Northwestern Regional Library System appeared before the Board. Mr. Hedrick noted Board members attendance at the recent County Legislative Day. Mr. Hedrick reported that the library systems will experience a 6% cut in State funding. In addition, the library systems must also meet maintenance of effort. If the library system does not receive at least the same local funding as the prior year, the funding will be cut additionally by a percentage. The Northwestern Regional Library System is made up of 4 counties and 12 municipalities. At this time, only 2 counties, Alleghany and Stokes, have committed to an equal amount of funding as the prior year.

Commissioner Wooten asked why the County should make up State losses. Mr. Hedrick replied that a cut on the local level will result in an additional cut from the State.

Commissioner Wooten noted the large salary increases for library staff that were implemented a few years prior. Mr. Hedrick stated that a pay plan was implemented but that there have been no pay increases in 3 consecutive years.

Commissioner Wooten asked how the additional \$3,129 would be allocated. Mr. Hedrick replied that the individual needs of each library would be assessed and the funds divided accordingly.

Yadkin Senior Services

Beth Rummage, Director of Yadkin Senior Services appeared before the Board. Mrs. Rummage was accompanied by Board members, Thomas Wooten and Dan Pavlansky. Mrs. Rummage provided a brief history of the organization and its function. Mrs. Rummage provided various demographics of Yadkin County highlighting the aging population.

Following a conversation with Deputy Manager Church, Mrs. Rummage reported that Yadkin Senior Services is not a means tested program for participants over the age of 65. Yadkin Senior Services currently serves 2 senior citizens outside of the County. In home aid agencies are allowed to serve clients within a 90-mile radius. These 2 participants are Medicaid recipients and services are not funded with County dollars.

Mr. Thomas Wooten noted that all State and Federal payroll taxes are up to date. Mrs. Rummage has established liability insurance to protect the County and the program. Mrs. Rummage implemented drug testing for all employees. The waiting list is realistic. Mrs. Rummage continues to carry out a majority of duties that other staff should manage.

Yadkin Senior Services initially requested \$60,000 for FY 2010-2011. The manager's recommended amount is \$40,250 which is equivalent to the prior year. Mrs. Rummage explained that the additional funds requested would be used as a match for a Home and Community Care Block Grant. Chairman Wagoner asked how the additional \$19,750 would equate as matching funds. Mrs. Rummage replied that the grant requires a 10% match which would equate to \$190,000 + in grant funds for the Community Resource and Referral Project. It was noted that there is no guarantee that Senior Services will receive the grant. Mrs. Rummage added that any additional funds would be applied directly to client services in the event that the grant is not awarded to Yadkin Senior Services.

General Budget Discussion

Chairman Wagoner offered a sincere thanks to Deputy Manager Church for his work on the proposed budget. Commissioner Garner added that this budget had been the easiest to work with in his 4 years as a Board member.

Regarding the appearance of Mr. Hedrick and Mrs. Rummage at today's meeting, Commissioner Garner commented that, in this economy, libraries are a luxury but senior services are not.

Commissioner Wooten stated that he had very little comment on the budget until after the public has an opportunity to comment at the upcoming public hearing. Chairman Wagoner countered that public opinion would not sway his feelings on the budget.

Vice Chairman Austin offered the following for consideration...

(1) Insert a potential COLA of 1% effective January 1, 2011 contingent upon the sales tax revenues. Sales tax projections must be stable or increasing in order to apply the COLA.

Fund this effort by reducing the \$600 HRA to its original amount of \$500 and reduce the County match for 401K to its original amount of 1% Vice Chairman Austin believes this will be more appealing to County employees and will be more fair and equitable across the board. In addition, costs are reduced from \$70,000 to \$50,000 with this recommendation.

Deputy Manager Church noted that if sales tax revenues continue to decline, the County may face furlough, reduction in force, or a potential tax rate increase.

Chairman Wagoner noted the importance of maintaining a high morale among County employees and the need to show the Board's appreciation for the employees. This recommendation by Vice Chairman Austin offers a \$20,000 reduction in the budget and has a more direct impact on employees.

(2) Consider a set aside for the Yadkin Center of Surry Community College in the amount of \$60,000 to replace a recent expenditure and add another \$60,000 for future capital projects. Commissioner Wooten agreed that the Community College needs to grow to meet the community needs but feels that the economy is too restrictive at this time. Vice Chairman Austin noted that the funds would not be spent, only set aside for future needs. Vice Chairman Austin asked that Board members consider a set aside from the fund balance of \$60,000 to \$120,000 for future capital needs of the Yadkin Center.

Chairman Wagoner offered the following for consideration...

Consider a set aside of \$500 as a prize for a winning entry of a new Yadkin County slogan. Chairman Wagoner suggested that the County run a contest seeking slogan ideas and award \$500 to the individual whose slogan is chosen. It was noted that the current Board will choose the winner and unveil the new slogan at their last regular meeting. After brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that this would not be added to the budget as a line item. When needed, a budget amendment would be more appropriate.

The Board briefly discussed Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor and a request for \$5,000. The Board briefly discussed the NC Education Lottery and the 1-year waiver of the requirement for capital expenditures only.

Commissioner Garner asked if the jail lawsuit was still in appeal and why no new information had been brought forward. Chairman Wagoner responded that the appeal is pending and that there is no new information.

Commissioner Wooten asked Deputy Manager Church to present the budget PowerPoint during the public hearing. Vice Chairman Austin asked that the changes discussed at today's meeting be made to the PowerPoint presentation.

Deputy Manager Church noted 2 corrections on the proposed budget:
Page 23 - SCC Capital Reserve - strike \$11,500 and could add \$60,000
Page 24 - Add \$40,000 for CMS and WN Ireland contracts

Chairman Wagoner stated that the next regular meeting would be held on Monday, June 7, 2010 at 9:00am with the public hearing for the proposed budget to follow that evening at 7:00pm.

**Commissioner Moxley made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Austin second.
Vote: 5/0**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Prepared by Clerk to the Board

Date Approved by the
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners